

ON THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Terrence W. Schmidt

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MISSION MODULE SWAPPING IN A VESSEL

Serial No.: 10/712,987 Confirmation No.: 7342

Filing Date: 12 November 2003

Examiner: Olson, Lars A. Group Art Unit: 3617

Attorney Docket No.: 1934-8-3

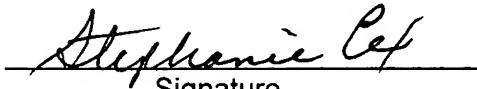
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Signature

RULE 56 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicants submit herewith patents, publications, or other information for consideration during the examination of this application.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made nor that the

information cited in the statement is or is considered to be "material" to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

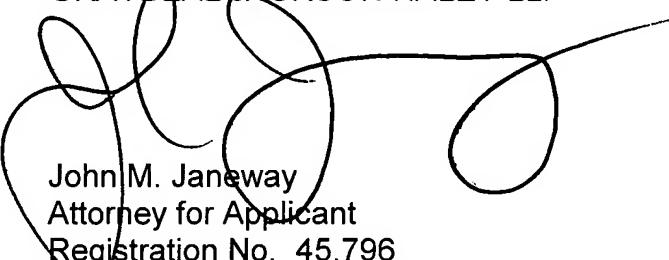
A check (No. 26965) for \$180 for filing the IDS is enclosed.

**Statement Specified in Section 1.97(e)(2) as required under Section 1.97(d)**

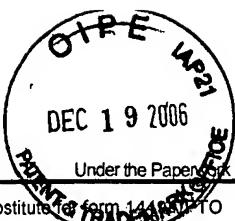
The references listed in this information disclosure statement were not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, were not known more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<i>Application Number</i>	10/712,987
<i>Filing Date</i>	November 12, 2003
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Terrence W. Schmidt
<i>Art Unit</i>	3617
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Lars A. Olson
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	1934-8-3

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>4</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.